

# GREATER **LONDON** AUTHORITY

**(By email)**

Our reference: MGLA260723-2736

31 August 2023

Dear

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 26 July 2023. Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004.

You requested:

Correspondence over the last 12 months between the Mayor of London (or his senior team) and the Department for Transport relating to the establishment of a scrappage scheme as part of the extension of the ULEZ to the entirety of Greater London

Our response to your request is as follows:

Please find attached the information the GLA holds within the scope of your request.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA260723-2736

Yours sincerely

## **Information Governance Officer**

If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the GLA's FOI complaints and internal review procedure, available at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>



Department  
for Transport

Sadiq Khan  
Mayor of London  
City Hall  
Kamal Chunchie Way  
London  
E16 1ZE

From the Parliamentary  
Under Secretary of State  
**Richard Holden MP**

Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000  
E-Mail: richard.holden@dft.gov.uk

Web site: [www.gov.uk/dft](http://www.gov.uk/dft)

Our Ref: MC/423487

20<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear

*Sadiq,*

Thank you for your letter to the Prime Minister. As the Minister for Roads and Local Transport it has been passed to me for reply.

I agree entirely on the importance of tackling air pollution. Improving air quality and health is a priority area for the Government. As you will be aware the UK leads the G7 in the reduction of carbon emissions and has an ambitious programme to phase out diesel and petrol road vehicles. Cutting NHS waiting lists is one the Prime Minister's key priorities – and addressing unnecessary harm from air pollution is one of many routes to delivering that. We should all welcome that air pollution has reduced significantly since 2010, with emissions of sulphur dioxide down by 73%, nitrogen oxide emissions by 45%, and particulate matter emissions by 10%.

You've chosen to expand the ULEZ in London significantly beyond what you committed in your most recent election, and in the face of significant public opposition. That is, of course, a matter for you. However, having done so, complaining that you have not had more funding from government for scrappage schemes is a little perplexing. London has already received generous support from central government – £102m for projects to target pollution, and over £6b to support public transport after Covid – vastly more than other areas. Complaining London has been unfairly treated when it's had excellent support is disingenuous and misleading, particularly when your officials are seeking further capital funding at the same time.

TfL expect to raise in the order of £300m each year from the expanded ULEZ – you could simply borrow against this money to fund an enhanced scrappage scheme, if, as you suggest, your intention is not to raise more money.

Moreover, I'm unclear why you would only now come to government seeking support. Why did you plan the scheme, consult on it, and decide to implement it, if you thought such an important mitigation was insufficient all along?

I respectfully suggest your letter is itself something of a smokescreen for an attempt to shift the political blame for an extremely unpopular policy. I well understand the challenges you face in justifying what many see as a tax targeting the poorest motorists, a tax on small businesspeople, that will see thousands forced to scrap perfectly good vehicles that they struggled to buy. I rather suspect Londoners are rather too canny to fall for that.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R Holden', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**RICHARD HOLDEN MP**

**MINISTER FOR ROADS AND LOCAL TRANSPORT**

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP**

Prime Minister  
10 Downing St  
London  
SW1A 2AA

**Date:** 22 February 2023

Dear Prime Minister,

As you will no doubt be aware, London is in the grip of a deadly public health crisis. Toxic air pollution is causing the premature deaths of an estimated 4,000 Londoners every year, while children in our city are growing up with stunted lungs because the air they breathe is poisoning them. It is no exaggeration to say this is one of the greatest scandals of our time and an injustice we must act urgently to address.

As Mayor, I've taken swift and decisive action to protect the health of Londoners – bringing forward the implementation of our Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) and then expanding it to cover inner London. The impact of this has been nothing short of transformative, with levels of one of the most dangerous pollutants in our air cut by almost a half in central London and by more than a fifth in inner London, ensuring that more than four million Londoners are now able to benefit from cleaner air.

However, there is still a long way to go to protect our communities from this invisible killer. If no additional action is taken, it is estimated that around 550,000 more Londoners would develop diseases attributable to air pollution over the next 30 years – ruining lives, condemning a generation of children to ill-health and costing the NHS and social care system in the region of £10.4 billion.

It is abundantly clear then that the cost of inaction is far too high and that further action is needed to safeguard public health and spare people unnecessary suffering. I'm simply not prepared to stand idly by while toxic fumes from highly polluting vehicles choke our communities and leave our children reaching for inhalers and gasping for air. That's why I've chosen to expand the ULEZ London-wide. We know it will deliver cleaner air for five million more Londoners and save lives, particularly in the outer boroughs of London, where the greatest number of deaths attributable to air pollution currently occur.

The ULEZ is a highly targeted scheme, designed to get only the most polluting vehicles off the road – with 85 per cent of vehicles seen driving in outer London already meeting the required emissions standards and not liable for the new charge. And I've announced the biggest scrappage scheme yet – £110 million – to support Londoners on lower incomes, disabled Londoners, micro businesses and charities to scrap or retrofit their non-compliant vehicles.

# MAYOR OF LONDON


However, there is more to be done, which must include proper national action to tackle air pollution and the climate crisis. So I urge you to use some of the unexpected £30bn windfall in the public finances to not only match the funding allocated for scrappage in London, but to introduce a targeted scrappage scheme that provides help to those based in the home counties who drive into London with the most polluting vehicles. I also hope my approach on eligibility for scrappage and exemptions can be followed nationally.

Following an order by the Supreme Court to tackle the illegal levels of air pollution across the country, the Government has been working with other cities and regions to introduce clean air zones. This has included some national support for local scrappage schemes, including in Greater Manchester (£120m), Bristol (£42m), Birmingham (£38m) and Bradford (£30m). But London and the home counties, including Surrey and Kent, have not received even a penny of support from central government. London, the South East and the East of England make net contributions to the Treasury every year and Londoners pay £500 million of vehicle excise yearly, which is then spent on maintaining roads in other parts of the country. For our regions to pay in so much and not be helped to reduce carbon emissions and make our air safer to breathe is unfair and doesn't make sense.

I truly believe the polluted state of our air – and its consequences for the health of our citizens and the next generation – is one of the greatest scandals of our time. It's a travesty on a par with the harm done to our children's health by second hand cigarette smoke. It took decades before action was taken to address that menace and, as political leaders with the power to make a difference, we can't be responsible for a similar delay that damages our young people's health and slows our efforts to avert a climate crisis.

So I urge you to become a doer, rather than a delayer, when it comes to climate action and reducing air pollution, and to bring an end to the failure of leadership we have seen at the top of national government on these vital issues for far too long.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a small '2' written below the name.

**Sadiq Khan**  
Mayor of London